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**Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention
on the Control of Transboundary Movements of
Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal**

Seventh meeting

Geneva, 25-29 October 2004

Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

**Report on the implementation of the decisions adopted by
the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting**

Amendment to rule 29 of the rules of procedure

Attached are relevant rules of procedure extracted from selected Multilateral Environmental Conventions, as requested by the third session of the Open-ended Working Group. The Parties may wish to review these extracts when considering the draft decision on the amendment of rule 29 of the rules of procedure contained in document UNEP/CHW.7/2 on compilation of the draft decisions forwarded by the Open-ended Working Group to the Conference of the Parties for its consideration and possible adoption.

* UNEP/CHW.7/1.

I. Convention on Biological Diversity

Rules of Procedure for Meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

“Rule 29

1. Sessions of the Conference of the Parties shall be held in public, unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise.
2. Sessions of subsidiary bodies shall be held in public unless the subsidiary body concerned decides otherwise.”

II. Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Especially as Waterfowl Habitat

Rules of Procedure for Meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat

“Rule 29

1. Sessions of the Conference of the Parties shall be held in public, unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise.
2. Sessions of subsidiary bodies shall be held in public unless the subsidiary body concerned decides otherwise.
3. Delegations shall be seated in accordance with the alphabetical order of the English language names of the Parties.”

III. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties and its Subsidiary Bodies

“Rule 30

1. Meetings of the Conference of the Parties shall be held in public, unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise.
2. Meeting of the subsidiary bodies shall be held in private unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise.”

NB: The rule contains a footnote that says: “Paragraph 106 (c) of the Report of the Committee on its eighth session (A/AC.237/41) states: Consistent with the Rules of Procedure of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, upon which the draft rules were largely based, Rule 30 of the draft rules of procedure would be interpreted as permitting duly accredited observers to participate in ‘private’ meetings.”

IV. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

Rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties

“Rule 28

1. The Conference of the Parties may establish such subsidiary bodies as are deemed necessary for the implementation of the Convention.
2. Meetings of standing subsidiary bodies shall be public unless the subsidiary body concerned decides otherwise.
3. Meetings of ad hoc subsidiary bodies shall be private unless the ad hoc subsidiary body concerned decides otherwise.”

“Rule 36

1. Meetings of the Conference of the Parties shall be held in public, unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise”.

V. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species

Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties

“Rule 12 – Publicity of debates

1. All plenary sessions of the meeting and sessions of Committees I and II shall be open to the public. However any single session may be closed to the public by a decision of a simple majority of the Representatives present and voting.
2. As a general rule, participation in sessions of the Credentials Committee or any working group shall be limited to the delegates and those observers invited by the Presiding Officer of the session at which the Committee or working group is established. However, the Presiding Officer may leave it to the discretion of the Chairman of a committee or working group to decide on the invitation of observers.”

VI. Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer

Rules of procedure for Meetings of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that deplete the Ozone Layer

“Rule 29

Sessions of the meeting and of committees and working groups established by the meeting shall be held in private, unless the meeting otherwise decides”.

VII. Convention of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Rules of Procedure for the Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties¹

“Rule 21 – Plenary Sessions

All plenary sessions of the meeting shall be open to the public, except that in exceptional circumstances the Conference may decide, by a two-thirds majority of Representatives present and voting, that any single session be closed to the public.”

“Rule 22 – Sessions of Committees and Working Groups

As a general rule, sessions of committees and working groups other than the Committee of the Whole shall be limited to the delegates and to observers invited by the Chairpersons of the committees or working groups.”

VIII. Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

Draft Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties and its Subsidiary Bodies

“Rule 35

Sessions of the Conference of the Parties shall be held in public, unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise.”

IX. Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

Draft Rules of Procedure for the Conference of the Parties

“Rule 34

Sessions of the Conference of the Parties shall be held in public, unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise”.

¹ According to article VII of the Convention of Migratory species, the Conference of the Parties shall determine and adopt rules of procedure for each meeting.